



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release FRIDAY AM's, JULY 16, 1948.

\$300,000 FLOOD DAMAGE TO COLUMBIA RIVER FISH HATCHERIES

Flood waters which ravaged the Columbia River valley during May and June caused at least \$300,000 damage to Federal fish hatcheries.

This estimate was made today by Dr. O. Lloyd Meehan, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Game-fish and Hatcheries.

Fish production in the area has probably been seriously affected, Dr. Meehan said. A considerable number of young salmon were trapped on the flooded land when the receding water left them stranded. Others were stranded when the flood waters damaged hundreds of irrigation ditch screens located in the fish-ways of dams along the river.

Dr. Meehan said however that definite effect on salmon returns will not be evident for three or four years, when the fish hatched this year will return to the area to spawn.

Six Federal hatcheries in the lower river basin were affected by the flood. The Carson Federal Fish-Cultural Station at Carson, Wash., and the Quilcene Station at Quilcene, Wash., did not report any damage.

Heaviest damage was reported at the Big White Salmon Station at Underwood, Wash. The waters undermined the foundation of the hatchery building, smashed retaining walls, and flooded residences and garages.

Holding ponds were completely washed away at the Winthrop Station at Winthrop. The flood also wrecked the water supply canal, carried away a diversion dam, and demolished a 12-foot high dike.

Similar damage occurred at the Entiat, Wash. Station; the Little White Salmon Station, Cook, Wash.; the Leavenworth, Wash. Station; and the Delph Creek Station at Estacada, Oreg.

X X X